

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-11 and 14. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated based on Spira et al. (US Pat. No. 3,746,923).

Claims 12 and 13 each require at least a first board holding a ballast circuit, a second board holding power semiconductor devices, and a mechanical switch that turns lamps on, off or dim. The compact, two-board arrangement, in one embodiment, fits inside a standard electrical junction box. This permits a contractor to replace a conventional on/off switch with an inventive dimmer switch that can operate incandescent and fluorescent lamps without requiring a separate ballast for the fluorescent lamp.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The invention as claimed in claims 12 and 13 is not shown or suggested in Spira et al. The reference fails to show a first board for holding a ballast circuit and a second board for holding power semiconductor devices as claimed by the instant invention. The Examiner indicates that the cover plate (30) disclosed by Spira et al. holds a power semiconductor device. However, the cover plate (30) does not contain a power semiconductor device attached. In fact, the cover plate (30) is not shown to hold any electronic devices, and is merely for aesthetic purposes and is not a board for holding power semiconductor devices. Additionally, the reference fails to disclose utilizing a ballast circuit to control florescent lamps. Spira et al. makes no reference to ballast circuits or florescent lamps in general. The reference fails to teach all of the claimed limitations of the instant invention therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The remaining art of record has been considered and does not set forth the limitations of the invention as claimed.

Applicants appreciate the opportunity to call the Examiner but believe that this amendment to the claims and the forgoing remarks fully address the issues raised by the Examiner. On the other hand, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if he has any matters to address that will facilitate allowance of the application.

In the event that Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefore and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No.: 50-3010.

Respectfully submitted,
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